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Transmitted to the USPTO (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below. 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET **SUITE 1800** ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873 10/07/2005 MBEYENE2 00000050 10600607 020(Depositor's name) 01 FC:1501 1400.00 OP (Signature) 300.00 OP 02 FC:1504 (Date) APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/600,607 6/23/2003 Kinya Aota 503.35255V10 9592 TITLE OF INVENTION: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD APPL. TYPE SMALL ENTITY **ISSUE FEE PUBLICATION FEE** TOTAL FEE (S) DUE DATE DUE Nonprovisional NO \$1400 \$300 \$1700 10/24/2005 **EXAMINER** CLASS-SUBCLASS **ART UNIT** STONER, KILEY SHAWN 1725 228-112100 1. Change of correspondence address or Indication of "Fee Address: (37 2. For printing on the patent front page, list CFR 1.363). (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys 1 ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence AND KRAUS, LLP. Address form PTO/SB?122 attached. Or agents OR, alternatively, agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of single firm (having as a "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form member a registered attorney or agent) PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of Customer and the names of up to 2 registered patent Number is required. attorneys or agents. If no name is listed no name will be printed. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type) PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

HITACHI, LTD. **TOKYO, JAPAN** Individual \boxtimes Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Corporation or other private group entity Government 4b. Payment of Fee (s): 4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed: Issue Fee A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed. ☒ Payment by credit card > Form PTO-2038 is attached. Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted) The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Advance Order- # of Copies Deposit Account Number 01-2135 (enclose an extra copy of this form). 5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above) a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2). The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

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